Import of Coal

†310. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of coal in different industries in the country is being met through imports;

(b) if so, the names of industries and the average quantum of coal imported annually; and

(c) the reasons for which these industries are forced to depend on imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COALAND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The demand-supply gap is being met through imports.

(b) Primarily coal is being importd by Steel and Allied industries, Thermal Power Stations and cement units. The sector-wise import of coal during 2003-04 (provisional) is as under:—

(Figures in million tonnes)

Sectors		Quantity
Steel/Cokeries	Coking Coal Non-Coking	12.00
Power (Utilities)		1.42
Cement		2.50
Others		5.58
TOTAL		21.50

(c) Import of coal is under Open General Licence (OGL) of the import policy of the Government and consumers are free to import coal as per their requirement. Imports are being resorted to bridge partly the gap between demand and supply and for blending to improve the quality of coal.

SU-30 MKI Aircraft

†311. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have procured Sukhoi-30 MKI planes from Russia recently;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.